

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, October 20. 1705.

AS the last *Review* lays down, the indispensable necessity, there lies on every Member of Parliament, when Elected, and Truſted with our Liberties, to give his conſtant Attendance; ſo had I a Licence, to be as very plain in another Caſe, as I think it would bear; I would ſubjoin an Exhortation to one thing, relating to that Attendance, which if it be omitted, may render fruitleſs much of that Diligence when it is exerted; and *that is*, that this Attendance ſhould not be *conſtant only*, BUT EARLY.

The Occaſion, the Neceſſity, the Weight and exceeding Moment of this Article, is very well known to thoſe, who know what the firſt Minutes of ſuch an Aſſembly are Employ'd in; and what the Conſequence of a full Appearance at that time, may be either on one ſide or other.

I have always been an Enemy to *Black Liſts*, and Expoſing the Names of any

Gentlemen, for what is done in the Houſe; but as for thoſe *who do nothing there*, the Caſe differs; and I ſhould be very Glad to ſee the Houſe ſo Reſent the Neglect of their Defaulters, as to Print a Liſt of all thoſe Names, who were not preſent, at the firſt Vote of this Seſſion, without ſuch Lawful Excuse, as the reſt ſhould approve.

Such Members would certainly be ill pleaſed to be told, they diſappointed the People who Chole them, and deceived them in the nicest part of their Expectation; an Early Attendance muſt certainly be a Teſtimony of a Zeal for the Publick Good, and earneſt Deſire to, and Forwardneſs, in the Service of their Country; than which nothing can recommend any Gentleman more to the Votes of thoſe that Chole him; or tell them, they have well beſtow'd their Suffrages; it cannot but ſhock and diſcourage the Freeholders

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and Electors, to find they have bestow'd their Votes on Gentlemen, that should not think the Work they were Chosen for, worth their Attendance.

Early Attendance also, has a great many Significant Circumstances attending it, especially at the beginning of a Session; such as may concern the Choice of a Speaker, the settling Committees and the like; and it cannot but concern every Member, Zealous for the Publick Good, to be present at these early Transactions; because on them frequently, the Good or Ill Proceedings of the Approaching Session, may very much depend.

I know in former times, the first Essays of this Nature have been Call'd, *trying the Strength of the House*; but as these things were, when different Parties made too great Struggles with one another in that Assembly; I would flatter my self with Hopes, we shall have no Struggling here; that there will be a general Contention for the Publick Good, and that there be no Strife, but who shall contribute most to the Publick Peace; and I presume, I cannot be Censur'd for saying, there can be no way to make this true, like a general Early Appearance, of all the Members if possible, at the very first Moments of their Assembly.

Such a Sight would damp the Hopes, and strike like a Clap of Thunder, all the vast Fabrick of Mischief, built up by the Enemies of our Peace; whose Unsettled Foundation, stands upon the weak Hopes they have conceiv'd of Parliamentary Disorders; that Wickedly flatter themselves, with Expectations of Heats and Feuds among those who are now Assembling, in order to prevent them every where else.

If these Enemies of the Publick Tranquillity, have form'd any hopes from the Prospect of Dissentions and Divisions in the House, *as perhaps their Folly may have blinded them enough to do so*; Nothing can serve so directly, to blow up all their Projects; nothing can so readily Confound all their Hopes, and put them out of all possible rational Expectation, as an Early numerous Appearance of the Members, ready to place themselves in the Breach; Op-

pose the Invaders of our Peace, and Defend us all from the Destruction contriv'd for us, by those that would prevent the good Success, this approaching Parliament must otherwise have, in the Great Work of the Nations Peace.

To be Early at the House, will not only be an Extraordinary Service to the Publick, but really a Benefit to the Enemies I am speaking to, in that they will the more Early see, the Impossibility of bringing their Designs to pass, and so perhaps may have the Prudence to give over their Attempts, lay aside their Projects, and like Wise Men, who will never begin what they foresee that they can never Finish; may despair betimes, and cease to pursue the Shadow any longer; and not only by this become Wiser, but Prudently prevent that certain Ruine, which must of Course be the Effect of all the Attempts, against a Nation resolv'd to be at Peace, in spight of the Contrivance of their Enemies: Thus by Early Discovering, the Folly of their Design, they will effectually Conceal themselves from the World, and be secur'd from the Publick Resentment.

Nor am I at all speaking at Random in this Case; I think I have good Ground for my Opinion, and that I am far from being mistaken, if I say, this Nation has nothing to fear, for the Approaching Session; *England* can be in no Danger, of all the Plots and Contrivances to prompt Domestic Dissentions, the Authors of which think they have laid the Scheme of general Feud, they will most certainly be all baulk'd and disappointed, if the Members do but *come Early to the House*; if the Vigilant Appearance of *English* Defenders of Liberty, do but show themselves there betimes, that no Early Discouragement be offer'd to the Nation, by the Absence of those, on whom they depend to stand by them, and to form that Peace, which the other are afraid of.

The Splendor of a full Appearance, the Lustre of a large Assembly, in the first and most Early Transactions of this House, would strike the Envyers of the Nations Peace, with Palenels and Trembling.

We are threatned with strange things by those Men, who have Ignorance enough to hope for more dangerous Experiments from the next Parliament; we are told in our Common Discourse what Methods shall be taken, and what new-fashion'd Projects shall be propos'd to them, such as shall amount to a *Jack* and no *Jack*, a *Bill* and no *Bill*; that shall Damn Occasional Conformity, *Incognito*, shall secure the Church, carry on the War, blow up Low Church and Presbyterian Parties, and all with a Breath of undiscovered Contrivance, that the Queen, the Lords, and all Opposers of the last Affair shall not prevent, and all the hopes of a whiggish Government shall be blasted at once.

Upon what Sandy Foundation these People build their hopes, and from what World in the Moon they brought their Scheme, I cannot pretend to determine. If they have got a *Mighty Equivalent* to the Tack; if their Projected Bill for the Preservation of the Church is so blended with their carrying on the War, that no Body's Eyes can perceive it but their own; it must be laid very Deep and far Deeper than any of these Gentlemen's former Politicks gives us Reason to think they are capable of, and that Thought really gives me a great Satisfaction in my Reflection upon the Attempt they are now to make.

If any Man will view the Politicks of this High-Church Party, they have always been so over-run by their Haste, their Senses have been so hoodwink'd by their Passion, that all their Contrivances have hitherto tended to weaken, lessen, and put backward both their Party and their Designs.

However, the larger Boasts they now make of the Cleanness of their projected Schemes, their Depth, their Ambodexter Surface, their Ambiguity and Studied Darkness of Councils; if the Devil and they have form'd a Design stupendous as the Pit from whence it is derived—All the Use I shall make of it is this:

Our Representatives have Variety of Inferences to draw from it, and all of them, are direct Motives to perswade them to their usual Vigilance to Countermine the Designs of a Wretched Party to ruin their Dear Countries Peace, and to bring in all to the

Confusions, Distractions, and unsettled Conditions of former times, when Breach of Laws, Arbitrary Councils, Persecution, Biting and Devouring one another, brought us just to the brink of Destruction.

The deeper the Contrivance is laid, the more Mists they have rais'd, the more Magick Clouds they have cover'd their Designs with, the more Eyes there will be need of to search into this wondrous Mystery; and tho' 513 clear-sighted Gentlemen seem sufficient to be trusted with the finding out any Mystery; yet Gentlemen of the 513, pardon me for saying, this Nation has such hopes from you all, such exceeding Value for and Dependence upon your Dexterity and Fidelity in scrutinizing this Cause, that we know not how to spare One of you out of the House: And we would, if Providence so thought fit, for once be blest with that Sight which perhaps *England* never saw yet; I mean to have the *whole Number* appear.

Some may answer to this, That all the Members may not be of the same mind, and that in particular some may be against the very Party I think I am talking of.

I shall freely declare my Opinion in this Case: I desire no better a Case for the Liberties of *England*, than to have all the Members in the House; and I believe all True Englishmen are of my mind. No Side can then talk of Advantages, Surprises, and I know not what Objections former Times have been full of. A full Assembly of Parliament can have no Objections against it. Thousands of ill Consequences give us Cause to reflect with Concern upon the Absence and Non-appearance which formerly have been too frequent in Cares of the greatest Moment to the Nation; but we never found any ill Event proceed from a Confluence of Members; to be absent can do no Good, to be present can do no Harm. A full House has a Thousand Advantages, a thin House ten thousand Disadvantages.

The Gentlemen, who, as I said, boast of the fine-spun Projects they have laid ready to be offer'd to the House, discover much of their Hopes to depend upon the Non-Attendance of the Members; in which two things to me seem wonderful.

1. That they should flatter themselves with

with hopes of a thing which in their own Fancy depends upon *what I hope* England *shall never see*, viz. The Members of an English Parliament neglect their Duty. The more this seems to be their Dependence, the more all Apprehensions vanish from honest Men; for no Man can think so meanly of an English Representative, without meriting the Censure of both want of Charity, and want of Manners.

2. That they should not be ashamed, to own the weakness of their Politicks, and that they should suffer their Folly, so to prevail upon their Judgments, as to expect any thing from a Project which must Dye, if that great Chance should happen, which it is two to one, but it will, viz. That the Members should do their Duty.

Let them hope on, I fear nothing for England, if Our Representatives, do but once resolve to give an Early constant Appearance; these Gentlemen, will soon be ashamed of their hopes, and of their Confidence; their Expectations will vanish like a Delusive Cloud, that represents Imaginary Armies, and Battails in the Air, which a steady Eye soon resolves into Vapour and Emptiness.

No matter of what side, or of what Opinion the Gentlemen are, let us but have them all, we may safely run the venture of that; and let the Consequences be what it will, we shall have no Body to blame, if these High Flying Gentlemen, can deceive them all, can Hood-wink a full Assembly; the worst is for England, we are bound to run the venture of that, and if we sink, we shall have no body to Complain of; but if our Members should not appear, not Attend, or not Early both appear and Attend: then we shall, and with too much Reason say, we might have been sav'd, our Liberties might have been Protected, would those Gentlemen, whom we trusted them with, have thought it worth their while, to have appear'd in their Defence

How the Reflection of having been Cho-

sen a Member, but neglecting the Duty of the Place, and omitting to Serve the Country that Chose him, would set upon the Conscience of any Member, when he should, as such a thing may happen, look back upon any Significant Bill lost, for want of his single Voice, I cannot guess, nor will the Occasion bear the Description; I hope all the Gentlemen concern'd, will be mov'd by their Countries Exigence, to prevent any Occasion for such Melancholly Applications.

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